

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 INT-05

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

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TAGS: PFOR, UN, PR

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24: THE 20 AUGUST
MEETING

SUMMARY: THE FOLLOWING CABLE BRIEFLY HIGHLIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS AT THE AUGUST 20TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 DURING WHICH THE COMMITTEE APPROVED A MOTION TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF THE PUERTO RICAN ITEM UNTIL THE 1976 SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION OF THE OTHER ITEMS ON ITS AGENDA, AUSTRALIAN CHARGE DUNCAN CAMPBELL ON A POINT OF ORDER MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DELAY ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE PUERTO RICAN ITEM UNTIL THE 1976 SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE. CAMPBELL BASED HIS REQUEST ON THE SERIOUS DIVISIONS IN THE COMMITTEE WHICH PUT INTO QUESTION THE DESIRABILITY OF PROCEEDING FURTHER WITH THE MATTER AT THIS TIME. CAMPBELL SAID THAT ANY RESOLUTION OF SUBSTANCE WOULD BE UNTIMELY AND HASTY, THAT THE GROUND HAD NOT BEEN PREPARED FOR SUCH A RESOLUTION AND THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS NOT SURE WHERE IT WAS HEADING. CAMPBELL INVOKED ARTICLE 116 OF THE RULES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH PROVIDES THAT "DURING THE DISCUSSION OF ANY MATTER, A REPRESENTATIVE MAY MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE DEBATE ON THE ITEM UNDER DISCUSSION."

3. CUBAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE ALARCON RESPONDED TO CAMPBELL'S STATEMENT BY ATTACKING ITS PROCEDURAL BASIS, STATING THAT DEBATE HAD BEEN CONCLUDED, AND DECLARING THAT MOTION "OUT OF ORDER, ILLEGAL, AND NULL AND VOID."

4. CHAIRMAN SALIM LOOSELY EMBRACED AN OPINION BY THE LEGAL COUNSEL OF THE COMMITTEE (WHO WAS NOT PRESENT) SUPPORTING THE AUSTRALIAN CONTENTION THAT "DEBATE" ON AN ITEM INCLUDES BOTH DEBATE AND VOTING. IN THE FACE OF SALIM'S REPEATED BUT LESS THAN WHOLEHEARTED ACCEPTANCE OF THE LEGAL OPINION AND CAMPBELL'S VERY EFFECTIVE AND VERY PERSISTENT DEFENSE, ALARCON DID NOT WITHDRAW HIS RESERVATIONS BUT DID NOT INSIST THAT THEY BE CONSIDERED A FORMAL OBJECTION (REQUIRING A VOTE BY THE COMMITTEE).

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5. FIJIAN REPRESENTATIVE AND IVORY COAST PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AKE MADE STRONG STATEMENTS IN FAVOR OF CAMPBELL'S MOTION. SPEAKING AGAINST THE MOTION ALARCON SAID THAT WHAT WAS AT STAKE WAS NOT THE EVENTUAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE, WHICH THEY THEMSELVES AND NOT THE COMMITTEE OF 24 WOULD ACHIEVE, BUT RATHER THE PRESTIGE, SELF-RESPECT AND MORAL INTEGRITY OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24. ALARCON SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE

MUST DEMONSTRATE ITS ABILITY TO WITHSTAND PRESSURE FROM
"IMPERIALISTIC AND COLONIAL" POWERS.

6. IN AN EXPLANATION OF HIS ABSTENTION AFTER THE VOTE,
YUGOSLAV PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE PETRIC EXPRESSED GRATITUDE
FOR THE THE FLEXIBILITY WHICH THE CO-SPONSORS OF THE RESOLUTION
DEMONSTRATED.

7. THE CHINESE EXPLAINED THAT WHILE THEY SUPPORTED THE
JUST ASPIRATIONS OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE FOR INDEPENDENCE,
DIVISIONS AMONG THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES OVER THE DRAFT
RESOLUTION HAD LED THEM TO "NOT PARTICIPATE".
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